Subject No. 141.

Silahdar patrols required for Shikarpur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—A detachment of Sawars, it is requested, may be placed at the Head-quarters of the Shikarpur Taluk as before for patrolling roads. The Taluk borders on the Dharwar District, and this arrangement will help the prevention of crime now frequent. The old stables used as Sandal koti are again available, as the koti has been transferred to Sagar.

Dewan's reply.—This is not practicable at present.

Subject No. 142.

Contributions for Tank work in addition to Irrigation cess.

Summary of discussion.—At present raiyats holding lands below a tank pay Irrigation cess. But they are also required to contribute in cash or labor for repair or restoration of these tanks. This is unjust. The Government should undertake the repair of all tanks yielding each a less revenue than Rs. 300 as well as the larger tanks yielding more revenue. Other R. Ms. from the Shimoga District followed on the same subject. One R. M. stated that if Government undertook to repair the smaller tanks (those which yield less than Rs. 300 each) raiyats would be willing to contribute ¼th of the cost. Another R. M. desired that even in the case of these small tanks Government should repair entirely at its own cost at least those tanks as had unoccupied waste land below them which if cultivated would yield an assessment of Rs. 50 or more, the reason being that in these cases Government would derive an adequate return for its further outlay on the repairs, by raiyats' taking up the waste lands as a consequence of the tanks being in a state of complete repair and full efficiency. The subject was again brought up later on by Mr. Srinivasaiengar, R. M. from Hassan District) who argued also against the long established rules which require the raiyats to undertake the maintenance of tanks once brought up to standard and handed over to them for upkeep. Prior to this he said all tanks were entirely dealt with by Government and the only occasion on which raiyats were called upon to do any work to the tanks was when these were in danger and some work had to be urgently done to save them, such as closing a small breach or leak, raising a ring bund, or breaching the bund at a convenient place to relieve it from excessive pressure from floods and so forth. He would therfore suggest that the liability of raiyats may be limited to the execution of petty work up to an estimated value of Rs. 20, the rest devolving on Government. He maintained that the payment of wet assessment entitled the raiyats to an adequate supply of water and absolved them from the liability to do any work necessary to secure it.

Dewan's reply.—There is no connection between contributions and Irrigation cess. The subject has been fully discussed and explained before, (see Subjects 35 and 50 of last year's Proceedings). Contributions are not compulsory.